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50 FIRST DATES

(that don't suck)



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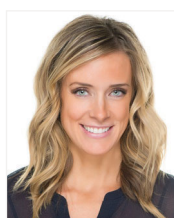
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THE SHORTLIST



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pickle pizza
goes viral,
incites debate
at citypages.com

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THE STAT SHEET:

25.6

Average minutes of the daily
commute in the Twin Cities,
making it only the 48th
worst in the country

45,000

Number of people who applied for
Section 8 housing when Minneapolis,
St. Paul, and the Met Council recently
opened their waiting lists

500

Jobs waiting to be filled at
the Minnesota State Fair

\$372

Average cost of a flight at MSP,
the 34th cheapest in America

**“Her comments don’t reflect
her own views? That’s a new
one. Was she drunk when
she was speaking to the
New York Times?”**

Reader Stephen Young responds to
“Minnesota think tank VP suspended
over anti-Somali quote in the New York
Times,” at citypages.com.

SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

MINNESOTA’S MANUFACTURERS are
desperate for employees, thanks to repeat-
edly unloading an AK-47 into their own feet.
Over the years they’ve lowered pay, busted
unions, killed apprenticeship programs, and
offered the relentless warning that, at any
minute, their jobs could be shipped to Asia.
What was once middle-class work now pays
slightly better than McDonald’s—with the
added benefit of zero security.

Nonetheless, they’re left to wonder why
young people won’t enter the field. They
might wish to look at their own history. The
young people rejecting them seem to know
it better than they do.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

WATCH LIZZO
WIN OVER RIHANNA,
rest of the universe
at BET Awards

ROCK THE GARDEN 2019 looked a
little something like this

Alleged **ADULTS MOCK**
A 6TH GRADE CLASS PHOTO
of St. Cloud immigrant kids

Today’s unnecessarily hard
question: **WHAT’S THE NAME OF**
THIS ST. PAUL RESTAURANT?

PRIDE 2019 IN
MINNEAPOLIS: See
the joyful faces of the
Twin Cities parade

THE WEEPING WALLET

Even on \$100,000, Minneapolis is America's 10th least affordable city

It's not news that those of modest income are being priced out of Minneapolis. What may surprise you is that even the solidly middle-class are taking a beating.

Magnify Money, a consumer finance site, has compiled some interesting stats from the U.S. Census and beyond. Though the troubles of the poor get a great deal of ink, it wanted to examine the woes of a young couple with a preschool child earning a combined \$100,000. The findings are not pretty.

Fifty-four percent of Minneapolis couples break that threshold, making it a fairly common income. Still, that's barely enough to make ends meet.

The site's rankings assume said family has the typical work health coverage, 401k contributions, tax deductions, and spending habits. The most punishing cities are a lineup of the obvious. Big Tech has made San Jose

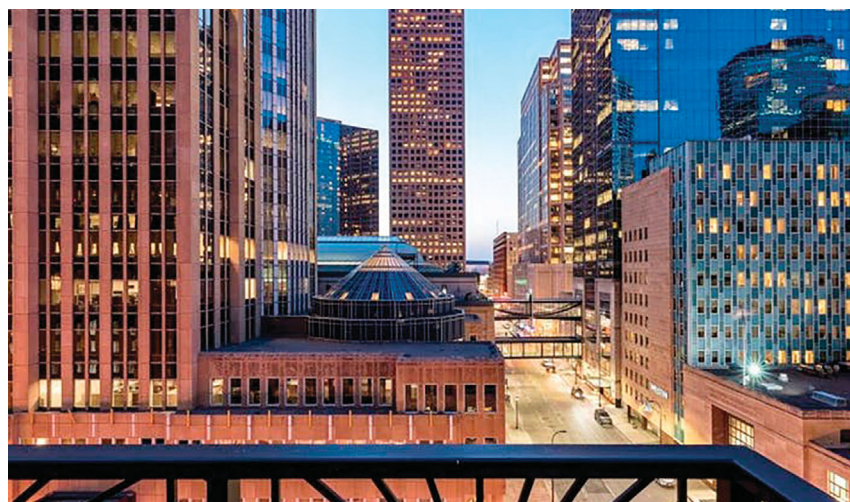
the worst, followed respectively by D.C., San Francisco, Boston, and Bridgeport, Connecticut, the nation's highest-income state.

What's surprising—or perhaps heart-breaking—is that Minneapolis has surpassed Denver, Seattle, Portland, Chicago, and L.A. among the least attainable.

Minneapolis' costs tend to be relatively average for things like food, transportation, etc. Where the pricing begins to soar is with state taxes and housing.

At \$439, the city's state tax burden was the highest in the country, more than twice what one would pay in California. A great many quality-of-life benefits come from that, but those can be of little solace to residents when the monthly bills are bleeding red.

The city also has abnormally high housing costs, especially for the Midwest. While an average of \$1,953 a month doesn't com-



STAR TRIBUNE

pare to San Jose's \$2,760, we're now just \$156 a month below the New York City average.

Part of the problem is simple math. Minneapolis is a geographically tiny city, with scant available land to build. And unlike most Midwest cities, it's growing rapidly, up nearly 50,000 people since 2010. So while the taxes may be high, they produce the amenities and the social livability driving new residents to town.

Housing, of course, is another matter. Though the city has been on a building bender for years, it can't keep pace with all the newcomers. And since developers' principal pursuit is profit, most new construction consists of higher-end condos and apartments, which exacerbates the grand divide between the haves and have-nots.

Throw it all together, and the prototype couple has just \$149 left in disposable income each month. —PETE KOTZ

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BLACK DAZE
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MUCH
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The emotionally stunted malcontents here at City Pages may be unable to sustain “meaningful adult relationships,” but that doesn’t just give us something to unpack with our therapists! It also means that, collectively, we’ve been on hundreds of first dates.

We’re the Scorceses of small talk. The Fitzgeralds of first impressions. (The Beatles of blowing it after three months.) By now, when it comes to first dates, we know exactly how to plan an at-least semi-successful one. An outing that isn’t garbage, even if it turns out your Tinder match is, and that won’t drain your bank account for some stranger who swiped right. And because we care about you, we’ve decided to share our hard-earned wisdom.

Outdoor cat or indoor cat, marathon runner or movie marathoner, there’s a not-totally awful first-date idea in here for you.

Good luck out there.

1 Books, beers, and pizza are objectively good things—catch a reading at Moon Palace and enjoy all three at once.

2 It’s baby raptor season, and is anything more erotic than squawking balls of lint that could rip your eyes out? Head to the U of M Raptor Center and watch their big siblings—who have wingspans longer than you are tall—as they tear apart their lunch. Nothing brings two souls together like a good nature-humbling.

3 Admire the probably-out-of-your-price-range furniture at Golden Age Design or Covet Consign or Findfurnish as you dream up a whole fake future together. Like the IKEA scene in *500 Days of Summer*, but not insufferable.

4 Drink Miller High Lifes (Millers High Life?) and play Big Buck Hunter at the CC Club.

5 Sneak into a speakeasy like Volstead’s Emporium, Marvel Bar, Al’s Place, or the Back Bar at Young Joni—recently named one of *Esquire*’s Best Bars in America. Just do your recon first, because while being in the know about a semi-secret watering hole looks cool, fumbling around for the hidden entrance does not.

6 Enjoy a high-in-the-sky view of downtown Minneapolis as you and your date navigate the 10 whimsical, artist-designed holes of the Walker’s rooftop mini-golf course. If all goes well, the 10th hole might not be the last time you sink a putt that night.

50 FIRST DATES (that don’t suck)



David Stalter Jr.
and Desaré Cox
at the Walker
mini golf

EMILY UTNE



BEST CBD | HEMP FLOWER IN TWIN CITIES?

There are many questions one must answer as they break into the new and booming CBD industry.

The non-psychoactive hemp extract is a cousin of THC, but doesn't get users high. A whole new market of cannabis fans use it for their pain, anxiety, insomnia, and other maladies. These enthusiasts rely on CBD, but when many first start out in the space they have questions around the products like what dosage is proper, what form of CBD is best for their needs, and other considerations.

The question that often presses most urgently on those interested in CBD is perhaps more simple and intuitive: Where can I find the best CBD oil near me?

Here's a quick and easy guide to help Minnesota residents figure out where to get the best expertise and product selection when dipping their toes into the CBD industry.

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL METRO

The Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis is where you can find the flagship location of Nothing But Hemp, a leader in Minnesota's CBD industry and purveyor of award-winning, lab-tested CBD.

At Nothing But Hemp's West Lake Street location in Uptown, a minimalist and comfortable aesthetic meets caring professionals who know the CBD industry forward and back. The team there has just the right information to guide you to the right products, including industry standard Charlotte's Web CBD oil, farm-to-table organic brands like Siskiyou Sungrown and other leading brands.

Check out Nothing But Hemp at **617 W Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55408**.

SAINT PAUL

Grand Avenue in St. Paul is now home to the newest branch of the state's largest dedicated CBD supplier, Nothing But Hemp.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON GRAND AVENUE

The new location in St. Paul, like other outlets of Nothing But Hemp, offers a cozy yet fashion-forward interior and comfortable atmosphere, where new and return customers alike can learn about and purchase the CBD products they rely on. The new location carries, multiple different hemp strains, local & award winning brands, CBD oil, bath bombs and much more.

For more information, head to **844 Grand Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55105**.

EAST METRO SUBURBS

If you live in the East suburbs of the metro area and know your usual CBD fare, your best bet may be to stop in to the Maplewood Mall on White Bear Avenue.

On the first floor of the mall, Nothing But Hemp sells selections from its award-winning brands and products lines, in a stop-and-shop kiosk format. All the lab-tested, industry-leading products are there as you've come to expect them, all in an accessible and convenient manner.

Be sure to swing by the store at **3001 White Bear Ave Maplewood, MN 55109**.

LOCATIONS

MAPLEWOOD MALL

3001 White Bear Ave Maplewood, MN 55109

FOREST LAKE

143 Lake St N Forest Lake, MN 55025

SAINT PAUL

844 Grand Ave Saint Paul, MN 55105

UPTOWN

617 W Lake St Minneapolis, MN 55408

SUPERIOR

1613 Tower Avenue Superior, WI 54880

TAMPA

250 Westshore Plaza, Tampa, FL 33609

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www.nothingbuthemp.net



7 It's a mere five bucks per berm ticket to a St. Paul Saints game, leaving you with lots of leftover cash to spend at the nearby Craft Beer Corner. Keep an eye out for fly balls and Bill Murray.

8 A first date at BJ's Liquor Lounge—no, seriously, trust us—is a ton of topless fun. One caveat: You've gotta get to this wonderfully divey strip club before the end of the year, when the joint's adult entertainment license runs out. Bring someone sexy.

9 Wednesdays at the Cardinal Bar, Thursdays at Elsie's, Fridays at Half Time Rec—pick the place you like best, and drop in for the weekly meat raffle. Winning means you've got your second date set: figuring out what to cook with a heaping pile of shrink-wrapped meat.

10 The half-mile trail wending beyond Minnehaha Falls down to the Mississippi is secluded enough that two people can get to know each other, but public enough that you can feel safe strolling with some rando you've never encountered IRL. Awaiting you at the end: sandstone caves where you can get cozy and a scenic rocky perch overlooking the river.

11 We dunno, there's just something about seeing a person smack a ball with all their might that makes people totally horny. Chicks dig the long ball, Chevy Chase's *Caddyshack* character can get it, and we've heard at least a few

Jacob Breitbach and Albert Conteh at Lyndale Park Rose Garden

women have been into Tiger Woods. Head to Top Golf and swing away.

12 Wander the U of M's Biological Sciences Greenhouse, where an industrial setting hides nine rooms covering the world's biomes. Take in the swamp peppered with bald cyprus before meandering to the desert, where cacti grow from sand alongside a quaint little patio table someone left specifically for you.

13 In the summer, \$3 scores you admission to late-night movies at Riverview, and another \$3 gets you some popcorn to share. (Swing by an ATM first.) Catch masterpieces of yore like *The Shining*, *Moulin Rouge*, and *Jaws*—because nothing says romance like watching a giant shark eat people.

14 The value of learning your date's musical taste early on cannot be overstated, and at delightful neighborhood bar Bull's Horn, that priceless info will cost you only a quarter per trio of tunes. After you take turns making selections from the well-curated jukebox (a gorgeous refurbished Wurlitzer Zodiac), you can move on to the pull tab booth and see how lucky the night is looking.

15 Actually, low-stakes bar gambling is a good way to get to know a new person pretty much anywhere. We're



partial to poppin' rippies at the 1029 in Nordeast or Dark Horse in Lowertown, where you can also sip fine scotch while you tear away.

16 The downside to a Comedy Corner Underground show is you won't be the funniest or most charming person in the room. The upside is you'll get a read on your date's sense of humor, and learn what their real laugh sounds like.

17 With ever-rotating decor and a drink list that shifts to match the theme—summer camp in the sunny months, spooky shit in October, Santa stuff during the holidays—Lawless is one of the most amusing cocktail rooms around. Come on a Tuesday to catch the guest bartender series, when there's always Mucci's frozen pizza and you might meet a pro-wrestling frog.

18 Commandeer the TouchTunes and split a Heggies at the CC Club.

19 Can your date navigate public transportation? Are they good in a crowd of strangers? Do they know where to get and/or be drunk in St. Paul? Find out all that and more by swishing up and down University Avenue on a Light Rail bar crawl.

20 Every Monday from 6 p.m. to midnight, Bryant-Lake Bowl offers a special for lovebirds. For \$28 total, you'll both get an entree, two tap beers each (or a bottle of wine to share), and a round

Destiny Anderson and Monique Roquemore on the Sabo bike bridge

of bowling. If you can figure out how to hand-score the game together, you two can get through anything.

21 The Lyndale Park Rose Garden is hella stacked—home to 3,000 plants in 100 varieties—though it's best to go when things are in bloom or you'll be looking at thorny bushes. If that happens, simply reroute to the always lovely Peace Garden, stop by the giant fountain, and try to spot a butterfly in the perennial garden, all mere steps away.

22 You've probably both wondered about the basement aquarium at the Mall of America. Why not check it off your bucket list together?

23 Raunchy dancing, bawdy jokes, pop songs, cleavage... a drag show at LUSH has it all. Consider trying out a brunch-time date and show. If things go well, adjourn to the spacious bar next door. (Though you may not need to, after downing the legitimately bottomless mimosas.)

24 House of Balls, the West Bank's resident wonder emporium, is a magical place that'll teach you to see a little differently. You may find a bikeable polar bear, a plasma-cut throne hewn from old pipes and a tea service, or silly hats. Bring your most boring Tinder match and fix it, fast.

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25 On weekends, Surdyk's typically offers a variety of samples throughout the store. Break the ice by snacking and getting a little buzzed, then pick out some wine and cheese and stroll south for a picnic near the river.

26 The Walker's Free Thursday Nights and Mia's Third Thursdays welcome you to explore the galleries, drink from cash bars, and listen to live music. If you love art, you'll have a lot to talk about as you make your way through the galleries. If you hate art, you'll have plenty to talk about, too.

27 Bike to the Martin Olav Sabo and crack a few bridge brews together. (Should anyone ask, we didn't send you.)

28 Theater Latte Da in Northeast is surrounded by promising restaurants for an early dinner—Northeast Social, Erte, Young Joni—and bars for post-show discussion of which actress stole the show and which actor was hottest.

Anna Thomas and Kaleb Durocher at Sea Life in the Mall of America

29 Or catch a Mixed Blood Theatre production, where part of their commitment to "Radical Hospitality" means there's almost always free entry to the super-cool firehouse-turned-arts-space in Cedar-Riverside.

30 Shoot pool and down a pitcher at the CC Club.

31 At a Timberwolves game, you might spend all night muttering to yourself about "Jimmy fucking Butler." That's not fun. What is fun is watching the Lynx—Minnesota's most successful franchise—kick ass, which they nearly always do. High five your way to booty.

32 There's no better way to get over whatever self-conscious first-date jitters you might have than screaming like a demented idiot in a movie theater.

You can do precisely that at Scream It Off Screen, the recurring short-film competition held at the newly refurbished Parkway in south Minneapolis. Three minutes into each selection, you get to holler at the top of your lungs for them to shut it off or to let it play.

33 Is love in the cards? Take turns getting a Tarot reading at Eye of Horus for a little insight into your future. Or lack thereof.

34 Hit up the Hexagon on a Saturday night for free admission, cheap beer, and loud bands. Sharing butts and downing Hamm's outside between sets gives you plenty of time to see if there's a connection.

35 Elsewhere in free admission, cheap beer, and loud bands, there's the 331 Club in Northeast, where there's never a cover and always something cool going on.

36 Catch Cornbread Harris performing literally anywhere. The 92-year-old piano man has spent a lifetime seducing the keys into making pretty sounds. Looking for a chance to reach for your date's hand? He'll give you plenty.

37 A round of lawn bowling makes for a great double date. Form two teams of two, and take to Brit's grassy lawn. This is a game that's easy to play while inebriated, and as a bonus, Brit's skyline views are some of the best in Minneapolis.

38 For about a century up through the 1950s, St. Paul's Swede Hollow Park was a crowded, plumbing- and electricity-free immigrant community. Now it's a low-lying, underused urban oasis with a creek running through it. Non-history buffs can skip the lesson and soak in the quiet beauty. Continue your stroll past the neighborhood's quaint gingerbread-house homes to the adorable Swede Hollow Cafe for coffee, or head for a beer at St. Paul Brewing in the adjacent historic Hamm's building.

39 Yeah, we rolled our eyes at the whole axe-throwing trend too... until we tried it, and had to begrudgingly admit how satisfying it is to huck weapons at wooden targets. Invite a Babe and free your inner Bunyan at FlannelJax's in St. Paul or Bad Axe in Northeast.

40 Eat fancy French food on the cheap with Grand Cafe's \$50 six-course Snack Attack; eat fancy new American food on the cheap with Tongue in Cheek's \$69 (nice) Get Some Lovin deal; eat fancy Italian food on the cheap with Broders' Pasta Bar's \$45 late-night date special.

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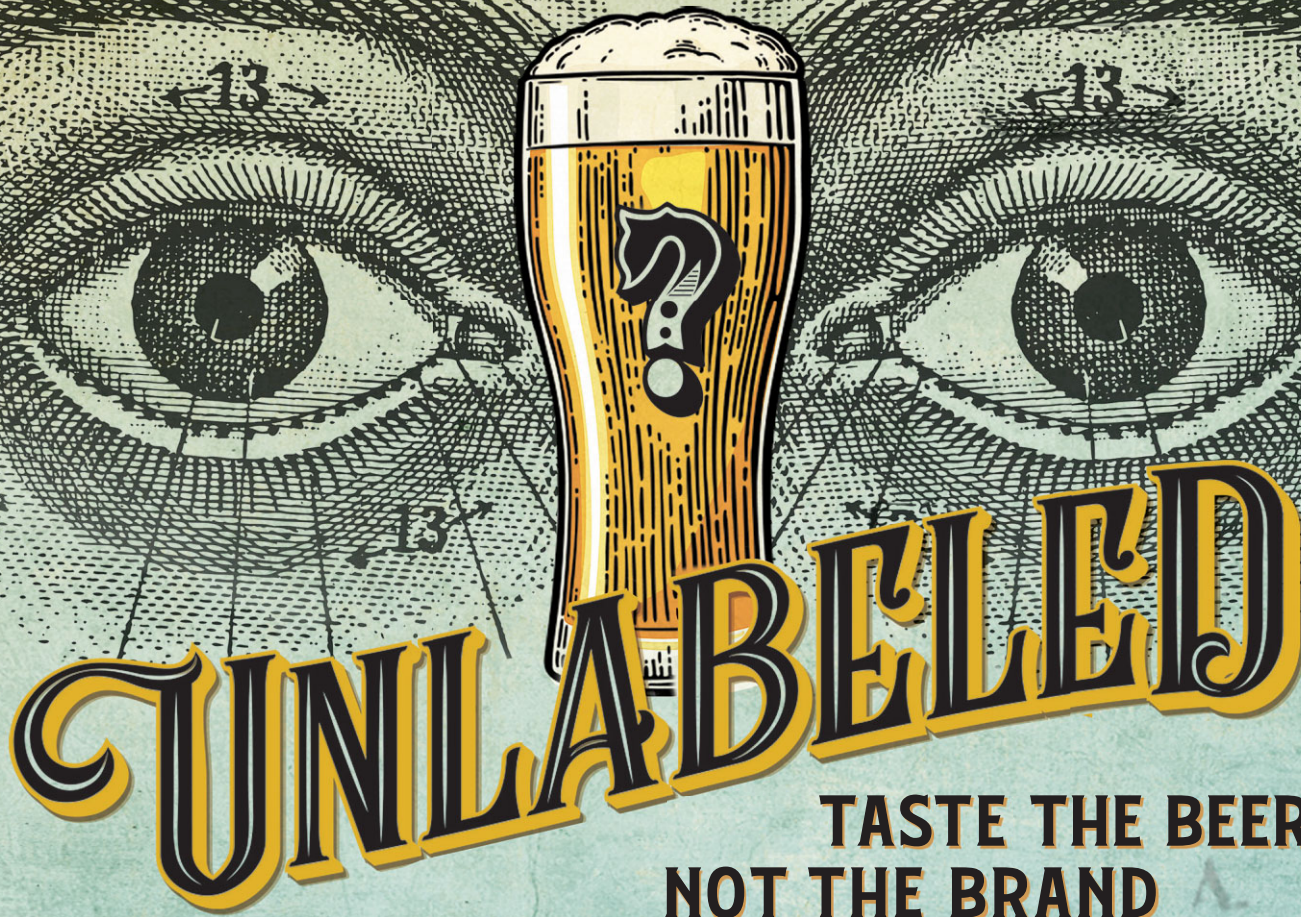
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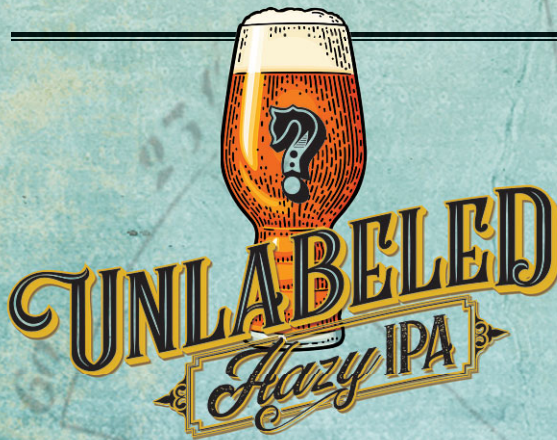
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41 Pick a pinball spot based on your date's personality. Up-Down, TILT, Mortimer's, Sisyphus Brewing, Caffetto Coffee House, Can Can Wonderland, Eastlake Craft Brewery—all these spots (and then some) have cabinets to satisfy the Uptown bro/craft beer nerd/Powderhorn punk/actual pinball aficionado you're meeting up with.

42 Hang out on the smoking patio at the CC Club.

43 You probably haven't played Seven Minutes in Heaven as an adult. But if you wanted to, you could at the Local on Nicollet Mall, which has a "kissing booth" in the back of the bar for those looking to make out in a tiny room, in-public-but-not-in-public, behind the privacy of two swinging doors.

44 Bring a blanket to sit on, put some booze and snacks in a cooler, and hit up a free movie in the park. The shittier the flick, the more you'll have to talk about while smacking away bugs.

45 Show off your Super Mario Bros. skills at Chatterbox Pub, where an old-school Nintendo (and a ton of other vintage games) awaits. Nostalgia is a hell of an aphrodisiac.

46 Scamper to the white sand beach along the Mississippi, where the only competition for an epic skyline view framed by the Franklin bridge comes from (technically unsanctioned) evening bonfires. Look for the trail peeling off West River Road a bit south of the train bridge, and be intrepid—and open to strangers joining you.

47 Try standup paddleboarding on Lake of the Isles. If you can get through the physical awkwardness and wobbling, there's a lot of potential for laughter here.

48 Some people run screaming from karaoke. Some people also run from love. Grab life by the microphone at the Uptown VFW, where there's karaoke every night of the week. If you bomb up there and your date still gives you a "whooooo!" at the end, you've got a keeper.

49 Your date has a good haircut, killer style, and a slammin' body. But! Do they, like, know anything? Can they name songs? Seen any good movies? You can find out at any old trivia night, but you'll have a more memorable time at Amsterdam Bar's Sunday brunch trivia.

50 Avoid making eye contact with every other person you've ever been on a first date with at the CC Club.

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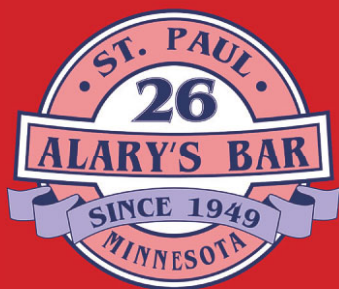
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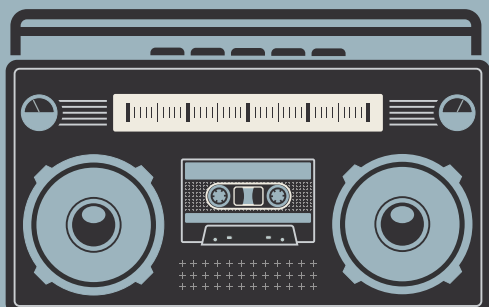
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BY SARAH BRUMBLE

“Don’t be cynical.” I’m being chastised by Sam Barclay, the ringmaster and hype man of Major League Eating—or the MLE, as competitors and the equally obsessed call it.

If you’ve ever witnessed an eating competition up-close, cynicism isn’t a valid reaction. I try to assure Barclay that good ol’ American shock and/or awe are the only two acceptable responses, but it’s his job to hyperbolize and mine to bask in wonder, especially at this time of year.

The Fourth of July is the competitive eating world’s Christmas, and Barclay its tireless Santa. Each year, Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest, an MLE-sanctioned event, takes place at New York’s Coney Island boardwalk. It airs on ESPN. Competitive eating is treated like the sport that it is. Eaters are introduced as tickers scroll beneath their faces, citing bizarre statistics. One year, while I was working at a local bar’s (defunct) hot dog eating competition, the Nathan’s contest played on all our televisions and I swear some dude’s claim to fame appeared as “Mixed Seafood Champion of the World,” followed immediately by a tiny woman who had “eaten 12 percent of her body weight in cheesecake.”

Is that what competitive eaters do for the other 364 days of the year?

Meet Ethan Teske, age 30. This born-and-raised Minnesotan has accumulated quite a record of eating according to Eat-Feats.com, such as having been the first recorded human to conquer Angry Taco’s five-pound burrito challenge at Rosedale’s Revolution Hall. At a June MLE event at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino in Tower, Minnesota, Teske placed sixth in his field, downing six pounds of wild rice hotdish in just eight minutes and taking home \$100 in prize money.

Barclay’s account of the day was Homeric. “By the grace of god, Miki Sudo [of Las Vegas] set a new world record in Wild Rice Hotdish,” he effervesced. “She’s the number-six ranked eater in the world, combined men and women, number-one ranked woman, and current World Champion in Ice Cream—16.5 pints of ice cream in six minutes.”

In this off-season, exactly how many people showed up for what amounts to a uniquely Minnesotan, world-class competition held on the shores of stunning Lake Vermillion? By Barclay’s estimate,

BIGGER THAN KOBAYASHI

Major League Eating is a 365-day-a-year pursuit



Ethan Teske was the first person to finish Angry Taco’s five-pound burrito challenge.

LUCY HAWTHORNE

“Approximately 10,000. Anywhere from a handful to ten thousand.” When I couldn’t contain my laughter, he pumped the brakes. “About 100,” he finally conceded.

Teske, in contrast, portrays his achievements with a more human level of excitation. “I always tell people competitive eating is kind of like professional wrestling. There’ll be the stars, and the underdogs,”

explains Teske. “Eaters like to talk a lot of smack to each other, but it’s all just friendly banter.”

He considers himself part of the nation’s “independent scene,” a position that lets him be “unsigned” and therefore free to compete in non-MLE events, yet friendly with the organization and its roster of stars. The way he describes it, there are two veins

of competitive eating: food challenges, like those based in local restaurants a la *Man v. Food*, and timed eating contests, such as MLE’s Fortune Bay event and the one at Coney Island. Teske does both (and does them well), but in terms of goals within the eating world, he isn’t so jazzed about hoovering dogs on the boardwalk.

“Different competitive eaters have different goals in mind. The Nathan’s Hot Dog Contest is essentially the Super Bowl of competitive eating. Some people get to go there every year, some people would love to go there. Like, I think it would be fun, but I wouldn’t say it’s an overall goal.” Instead he says, “I’d like to get food challenge wins in all 50 states.”

Teske pulls double duty in the workforce, and travels a lot for his job. When not working in pest control, he’s a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard. “My job in the military is... a cook.”

He regularly makes the food he scarfs, in the same volume. “If you ever randomly need 180 pounds of hotdish, I’m your guy.” For better or worse, this allows him to see where a food goes wrong, and he feels it. “One of the worst parts, for me, of competitive eating is having to deal with terrible food. Like when you take that first bite and instantly regret your decision to do that contest or challenge. Usually that’s not a problem, but sometimes it is.”

The wild rice hotdish at Fortune Bay was one of these situations, and not only according to Teske. Darrien Thomas, MLE’s number-one ranked eater in Canada, tied for fourth in the event by stomaching eight pounds of the chunky stuff, before writing on Instagram that this particular hotdish was “a lot harder to eat than expected.”

Barclay said he tasted the hotdish himself. “I had a small bite.” Ever the MLE partyman, he claimed it “made me want to be from Minnesota, and have a Minnesotan grandmother.” At the mention of Thomas’ suggestion that the food proved “harder” than anticipated, Barclay went low. “Perhaps the gentleman in question lacks the moral courage necessary to tackle hotdish.”

For those with the moral fiber of a competitive eater, Minnesota’s next major eating competition comes in November, when the MLE heads back to Fortune Bay for its annual World Indian Taco Eating Championship. Registration will be open to those signed to the MLE, as well as plucky young upstarts like Teske... or you.

Best start training now. Last year’s winner housed 30.5 fry bread tacos in eight minutes.

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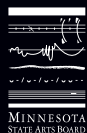
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A LIST

FRIDAY Scream at short films at Parkway p. 20 **SATURDAY** Delicious eats at Little Mekong Night Market p. 21 **SUNDAY** Free canoeing in Loring Park p. 21

For "Curio" at Light Grey Art Lab, artists traveled to Iceland. See the resulting works, including this zine, on Friday.



TEAM VATN'S COLLABORATIVE ZINE

WEDNESDAY 7.3

COMEDY

GREG COLEMAN

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Greg Coleman wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, and hoped one day to play in the NFL. However, he had a slightly different game plan. "I was going to play for a few years and then move into TV," he says, "but a few concussions and a broken foot later, I decided to start telling jokes." He made this choice during his years in college. In the locker room, he was a bit of jokester. "Every pre-game I'd interview my teammates and try to

get them to laugh," he says. "Some of them liked it; some of them were like, 'Man, what's wrong with you?'" At practices, he sometimes got in trouble for trying to lighten the mood. After a stint as a cast member on the Tony Fly morning show on B96, he started doing standup. On stage these days, he talks about his life, current events, and sports. "I have jokes I can tell 10 times in a row, but each time it will be a little different," he says, "but mostly I like to have a structured conversation with the audience." 8 p.m. Wednesday, Friday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THURSDAY 7.4

FESTIVAL

CONVERGENCE

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL

Now that the niche realms of science-fiction and fantasy have been embraced by mainstream audiences, fan conventions have followed suit, offering enthusiasts the chance to cosplay their favorite characters, seek out vintage collectibles, and gather autographs from celebrity guests. While these elements remain an integral part of CONvergence, the longstanding local convention has retained geek credibility by championing

the more cerebral and eclectic aspects of their genres of choice. For example, the CONvergence guest roster is as likely to include groundbreaking scientists as it is Hugo Award-winning authors. Even so, CONvergence goers aren't averse to cutting loose, as evidenced by the gaming rooms, movie screenings, costume contests, spoken-word sessions, live music performances, and late-night raves. Throughout it all, CONvergence emphatically rejects any trace of toxic fandom, promoting an atmosphere of intergalactic inclusivity. Check www.convergence-con.org for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 ►

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JULY 06



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FIRST AVENUE

JULY 22

FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



THE UPSIDE DOWN
A STRANGER THINGS DANCE PARTY
FT. DJ JAKE RUDH

JULY 05



CREW LOVE
A HOUSE, HIP-HOP, R&B,
REGGAE, DANCEHALL, AND
AFROBEAT DANCE PARTY
WITH DJ ADVANCE

JULY 06



NOCTURNA LEE MISSION
AND FLIP PHONE PRESENT
EMO NIGHT XXL

JULY 12



IRATION
WITH PEPPER, FORTUNATE YOUTH,
KATASTRO

JULY 13



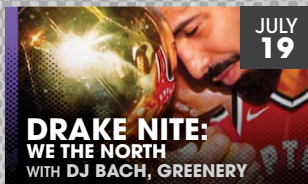
SNAIL MAIL
WITH SASAMI

JULY 15



PARQUET COURTS
WITH CATE LE BON

JULY 18



DRAKE NITE:
WE THE NORTH
WITH DJ BACH, GREENERY

JULY 19



NIGHT MOVES
WITH LADY LARK, SAM CASSIDY

JULY 20



JAWBOX
WITH JUSTIN COURTNEY PIERRE

JULY 26



90's
ALL THAT 90s PARTY
WITH DJ DAVE PAUL, DJ MARCO

JULY 27

PALACE THEATRE



THE STRUTS
WITH THE GLORIOUS SONS,
JJ WILDE

JULY 13



LAST PODCAST
ON THE LEFT

AUG 08



PHANTOGRAM
WITH BOB MOSES

AUG 25



TYCHO
WITH POOLSIDE

SEPT 13



BRITTANY
HOWARD
OF ALABAMA SHAKES

SEPT 19

PALACE THEATRE (CONT.)



BLACKBERRY
SMOKE
WITH THE RECORD COMPANY

SEPT 26



ANDREW BIRD
WITH MADISON CUNNINGHAM

SEPT 27

FITZGERALD THEATER



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AUG 11



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SEPT 07



CRIMINAL
PODCAST +
LIVE SHOW

SEPT 22

FINE LINE




REMO DRIVE
W/ SLOW PULP, HEART TO GOLD,
SLOW BULLET, IN LIEU

JULY 06




DEERHUNTER
W/ MOON DIAGRAMS,
DJ JAKE RUDH

JULY 08



REBIRTH BRASS BAND
W/ NEW SOUND UNDERGROUND

JULY 11



YOUR BODY IS A WONDERLAND:
A PSYCHEDELIC HOUR-LONG RENDITION
FT. **DREAM OF THE WILD**
W/ MAX GRAHAM & THE FAM

JULY 03



BIG EYES, NATO COLES & THE
BLUE DIAMOND BAND, LIFESTYLE
SHAKES, AND MIRACLE DEBT

JULY 08



SOUTHERN CULTURE
ON THE SKIDS
W/ BECKY KAPPELL AND THE FAT 6

JULY 12



THEE PHANTOM & THE
ILLHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
W/ iLLism, DJ KING OTTO

JULY 13



CRACKER AND
CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN

JULY 14



FOXWARREN
W/ HANNAH COHEN

JULY 05



JUICE
W/ STEPHEN DAY, ASHLEY GROVES

JULY 09

TURF CLUB



DEAD LARRY AND THE
PEOPLES BROTHERS BAND
W/ KARATE CHOP, SILENCE

JULY 05



RYAN-TRASTER BAND
W/ PETER M (OF WE ARE THE WILLOWS),
SAVANNAH SMITH

JULY 06



CAYUCAS
W/ SAM VALDEZ, LUCID VANGUARD

JULY 07



THE MATTSO 2
W/ MATT JENNINGS

JULY 06



COMBO CHIMBITA
W/ ALMA ANDINA

JULY 10



RED WANTING BLUE
W/ RADDA RADDA

JULY 10




THIS IS THE KIT
W/ NELSON DEVEREAUX
AND THE STYLE BAND

JULY 11



ELECTRIC SIX
W/ KYLE SHUTT

JULY 12



DADDY LONG LEGS
W/ THE SEX RAYS,
IAN VALOR & THE VENDETTAS

JULY 07



HUGH MATHERSON
AND THE RAD TRADS
W/ MICHAEL GAY OF ALMIGHTY AMERICAN

JULY 11

AROUND TOWN



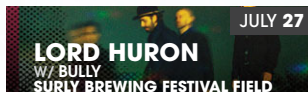
HELENA DELAND
W/ THE NUNNERY
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JULY 13



GO SHOW #17:
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JULY 19



LORD HURON
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SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

JULY 27



NEW YEARS DAY
W/ PLAGUE OF STARS, TIME KEEPER
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

JULY 29



YAMANEIKA
SAUNDERS
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

AUG 02

When it's this hot out, semi-nudity is definitely something to celebrate.



GARRICK YOONG

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

tickets and a complete schedule. \$35-\$125. 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. Through Sunday —BRAD RICHASON

BIKES

FREEDOM FROM PANTS XIII

HENNEPIN BRIDGE ON NICOLLET ISLAND

There's not a lot to celebrate about America right now. But a holiday is always a good excuse to spend time with people you love doing something memorable. On the Fourth, the Freedom from Pants crew rides once more. People will meet under a bridge on Nicollet Island, and toast to body positivity, semi-nudity, and friendship before hitting the streets en masse. The route is usually kept secret until the day of, but typically includes stops at parks and beaches. Requested attire for this event is whatever you want: Many will be nearly nude/down to their skivvies, while others may ride fully clothed. The choice is yours. Don't, however, choose to be an ugly American. Leave the fireworks and squirt guns at home, and don't even

think about telling someone to take off more clothes. We all still have the right to choose (for now, at least, in Minnesota). 6 p.m. to midnight. Free. 2 Merriam St., Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

HOLIDAY

RED, WHITE, AND BOOM 2019

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

There are plenty of places to see fireworks for the Fourth. But if you've never seen them on the downtown Minneapolis riverfront, you're missing out. In addition to the live explosions, there will be food trucks, plus two stages of live music. That includes old-school ska by the Prizefighters, classic-rock fusion from Yesterdawn, pop-folk from Sawyer's Dream, and country music by Tre Aaron. If that's not enough face-melting Americana, the night before you can catch *Solo: A Star Wars Story* at Boom Island Park, making it a double-decker event free of charge. As for Independence Day, fireworks will start promptly at 10 p.m. and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

89.3 THE CURRENT, KUMD, AND CITY PAGES PRESENT

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FRIDAY

DANCE

18TH ANNUAL DANCES AT THE LAKE FESTIVAL

LAKE HARRIET ROSE GARDEN

Shakespeare in the park is a common offering during the summertime, but how often do you get to see an outdoor dance performance? For the past 18 years, Dances at the Lake Festival has been bringing local dance groups together for a variety show

at the Rose Garden. Presented by the Ray Terrill Dance Group, the evening will feature all kinds of movement from all kinds of movers. There will be student groups, kids, and professionals. You'll see flamenco, African drum and dance, a Bollywood-style set, and modern dance. Troupes include Christopher Watson, Jawaahir, and Freshwater, among many others. Plan to picnic, or take a stroll through the gardens before the show. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Free. 4124 Roseway Rd., Minneapolis. **Through Saturday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



RAY TERRILL

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

crowds will be massive, but the display is equally massive so you can catch them from almost anywhere in the city. Other related activities this weekend include a half-marathon, a 5K fun run, and family activities. 6:30 p.m.; fireworks at 10 p.m. Free. 65 SE Main St., Minneapolis. —PATRICK STRAIT

FRIDAY 7.5

FILM

SCREAM IT OFF SCREEN

THE PARKWAY THEATER

See democracy in action at Scream It Off Screen this holiday weekend. For each installment, local filmmakers submit 15-minute shorts to screen at the Parkway. Audiences watch the first three minutes, then they collectively vote on whether or not to watch the rest of the film. If you're voting "nay," you'll start screaming. If the vote is "yay," then you remain silent. Films that get majority screams will be gonged and booted from the competition. In the end, the top filmmaker walks away with a sweet \$101. You're going to see some weird-ass stuff at this event. Some of it will be amazing, some of it will be lame. You decide what you scream for. These films aren't pre-screened; entrants simply need to be one of the first 15 to submit a flick earlier in the week at Turtle Bread. So you never know what you're going to get. 18+. 7 p.m. \$8. 4814 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis; 612-822-8080. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/GALLERY

CURIO

LIGHT GREY ART LAB

Light Grey Art Lab's newest exhibition, "Curio," consists of eight mini-shows, put together by a team of artists who recently traveled to Iceland and Norway through the gallery's residency programs. Since 2014, Light Grey has programmed residencies in those countries as a way of learning and inspiring the creative practices of the artists who participate. This year's pieces include ghosts, magic fire, and "vatn," the Icelandic word for water. There's also a Nordic runes collection, curated by the Norway Creative Residency team, which explores iconography, gods, and the messages of the 24 runes, dating back thousands of years. With illustrations, screenprints, watercolor postcards, buttons, pins, and zines, the exhibition bursts with inspiration from the Nordic region. At the opening reception on Friday, July 5, there will be food, refreshments, music, and a chance to meet the artists from 7 to 10 p.m. 118 E. 26th St., Minneapolis; 612-239-2047. **Through September 6** —SHEILA REGAN

DANCE PARTY

TRANSMISSION: THE UPSIDE DOWN

FIRST AVENUE

In celebration of the new season of *Stranger Things* on Netflix, Transmission is hosting another '80s dance party with a creepy edge. During the event, your

host DJ Jake Rudh will spin tunes and screen videos. We suspect that there will be appearances of spooky tunes like Beatfreakz's "Somebody's Watching Me," the Police's "Every Breath You Take," and hits from the *Ghostbusters* soundtrack. *Stranger Things* attire is encouraged; if you're rocking a shaved head this summer, you're already halfway there. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$10-\$13. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

JEEVES TAKES A BOW

THEATRE IN THE ROUND

The farcical nature of *Jeeves Takes a Bow*, Theatre in the Round Players' latest take on the works of English humorist P.G. Wodehouse, becomes clear with just a glance at the character sheet, featuring such names as Binky Binkerstheth, Ruby LeRoy, and Knuckles McCann. Subtlety has seldom been on tap for the screwball misadventures of absentminded dandy Bertie Wooster and his virtuoso valet, Jeeves, here skillfully adapted by Margaret Raether. This particular

episode finds the two Londoners vacationing in Midtown Manhattan, circa the roaring 1920s, as they're approached by Binky, one of Wooster's oldest and dimmest acquaintances. The slumming aristocrat has adopted Wooster's name as an alias, aspiring to walk on the wild side by acting in a musical alongside the capricious ingenue Ruby LeRoy. All of which would have been harmless enough if the possessive gangster Knuckles McCann hadn't already been smitten with Ruby. Cue a rollicking sequence of ludicrous mishaps and slapstick showbiz shenanigans. Audiences witnessing the madcap mischief will have a perfectly unflustered guide in the ever competent, sensible, droll Jeeves. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$18-\$22. 245 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-3010. **Through July 28** —BRAD RICHASON

COMEDY

AGOSTINO ZOIDA

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Agostino Zoida didn't have to move to L.A. to become a standup comic; he was already living there. "I'm from Sherman



When you're too rich to function, butlers can save lives.

RON RAVENSBORG



COURTESY OF LITTLE MEKONG

Oaks, born and raised," he says. However, growing up in Los Angeles, he didn't have any more of an understanding of show business than a kid in, say, the Midwest. "I was homeschooled and pretty isolated," he says. "I watched older movies, like Jerry Lewis films, and loved the art of comedy and film. When I discovered standup, I fell in love." At 18, he worked a steady run of day jobs with the notion of maybe doing comedy. "If I didn't feel like going to work, I'd tell them I had a show. And I wasn't even a comic yet." After getting laid off, he decided to use the situation to his advantage. He set a date and gave himself a month to write material for his first open mic while he collected unemployment. "These days, my set is about my marriage, my family, and a lot of storytelling," he says. "You're going to hear a lot about my wife and my thoughts on life." 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

SATURDAY 7.6

FESTIVAL

LITTLE MEKONG NIGHT MARKET

LITTLE MEKONG

Twin Cities residents love their farmers markets in the morning and their block parties in the afternoon. Fortunately, night markets have popped up in recent years to fill evenings. It's impossible to discuss Little Mekong Night Market without focusing on the variety of foods offered from southeast Asia, whether it's fried egg rolls and dumplings, savory sausages, sweet fruit, or ice cream desserts. Let loose while the belt gets a little bit tighter. In addition to the food, you'll find vendors and displays creating an inclusive, diverse event that showcases Asian roots and the fusion of American and Asian cultures. All of this is done

with a street-culture vibe—meaning it's affordable (and often crowded). Performances include traditional dancers and a breakdancing competition. Expect to overeat and to see something you haven't seen before. More info can be found at www.littlemekong.com. 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday; 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday. Free. 422 University Ave. W., St. Paul. **Through Sunday** —LOREN GREEN

SPORTS

STRIDER CUP MINNEAPOLIS

THE COMMONS

This weekend, downtown Minneapolis' Commons area is hosting the cutest freakin' bike event of the summer. During this mini-fest, kids ages two to six will be racing against each other on a variety of tracks. Cheer them on and enter your little one into a race. There will also be a practice area open to all tykes, and winners take home giant trophies. Sign up your kid and find more info at striderbikes.com. 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free to watch; \$32 to race. 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-339-0910. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

MONDAY 7.8

NATURE

FREE CANOEING

LORING PARK

For those looking for a downtown activity that is a little off the beaten path, consider taking a canoe tour. Mondays during the summertime months, Loring Park hosts free canoe rides for anyone interested. A naturalist will hook you up with a canoe, life vest, and paddles, and teach you tips on paddling while discussing local wildlife and waterways. Then you'll be welcome to explore the area and practice your techniques. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. 1382 Willow St., Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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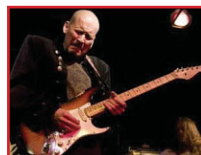
NAZMO KING



SATURDAY, JULY 6

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THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS

In the ambitious *Midsommar*, there's much more to be afraid of than the dark



A24

BY TONY LIBERA

If you've seen *Hereditary*, you already know how skilled Ari Aster is at scaring the crap out of people. It was an instant horror classic, an even more impressive accomplishment because it was the director's debut feature. Aster's already shown off his talent for the genre. With *Midsommar*, he reveals his aspirations.

While it stills works within a classic horror framework, *Midsommar*'s setting makes for an uncommon scary movie. After a family tragedy, Dani (Florence Pugh) joins her boyfriend (Jack Reynor) and his Ph.D.-candidate buddies on a trip to rural Sweden, where the midnight sun shines a light on the strange customs of a secretive commune. Most of the picture takes place during the "daytime," which offers a unique challenge for a horror director.

It's a bold move for a second feature, but Aster is more than capable of creeping us out without physical darkness to rely on.

Midsommar's trajectory isn't hard to guess, especially when the characters do their very best to ignore countless red flags—for wannabe doctors, these guys aren't too bright. That predictability would be a knock if the execution weren't so good, with *Midsommar*'s trope use ultimately feeling like an homage to the Dumb College Kids in the Woods subgenre, rather than a failed plot. In some ways it's actually scarier to know the broader strokes of what's coming, because that tension sits with us until the other shoe drops, and *Midsommar* proves to be as weird as it is memorable.

Beyond the scares, *Midsommar* parades around some interesting technical choices.

Sure, there might not be a single moment as masterfully blocked as that Toni Collette corner shot in *Hereditary* (if you know, you know). Yet Aster still displays a keen ability to put his cast—from the stars to a made-up inbred character to a bunch of naked extras—in the right place for maximum impact.

What's more, Pawel Pogorzelski's cinematography is mesmerizing—and that's not something that you often notice in a horror movie. Whether it's all in-camera or some post-production magic, it's truly unlike anything I've seen. Composition is one thing, but the little details are what really stand out. The highlights often look blown out, casting halos on lights, making the sky look unnatural, giving the commune's ceremonial garb a glowing effect. Lens filters or maybe just rear

MIDSOMMAR

directed by Ari Aster
area theaters, now showing

anamorphics (or both?) produce strange sun flares. And those qualities combined with subtle psychedelic CGI not only produce one of the most realistic depictions of hallucinogenic drug use in film (or so I'm told), but relate that experience to the audience.

Hereditary might be better overall, but *Midsommar* is easily more ambitious. Aster could've followed up his amazing breakout with something safe and familiar, both in-story and out. But like Jordan Peele before him, he tried his hand at a different kind of nightmare, swung for the fences, and came up with a substantial and spooky second feature. **B+**

MERRYMAKING

Failed seductions bring big laughs in the park



TRAVIS VOELS

BY JAY GABLER

On a beautiful Minnesota summer day, nothing goes down better than the humiliation of jealous husbands and presumptuous cads. That, at least, seems to be the lesson of the successive successes of last year's Mixed Precipitation picnic operetta and this summer's Shakespeare in Our Parks production by Classical Actors Ensemble.

The picnic operetta was an adaptation (via Otto Nicolai) of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, set in 1970s northern Minnesota. This summer, Classical Actors Ensemble are doing Shakespeare (more or less) straight in an uproarious production bursting with creative zest.

For the free series, now in its sixth season, director Joseph Papke reliably leads accessible productions that remind audiences of Shakespeare's timeless appeal as popular entertainment. Last year, the company even dipped a toe into the tragic with a successful open-air *Romeo and Juliet*. This summer, working with a play that few revere as one of the Bard's greatest,

Papke's popped the cork on a ridiculously fun production that the exultant actors seem to hope will never end.

For all its energy, this *Merry Wives* takes a very different tack than the loose and deliberately overstuffed picnic operetta. Here, the overstuffing is entirely literal in a lucid narrative revolving around the character who inspired the adjective "Falstaffian": "fat, jolly, and debauched," per Google Dictionary.

An artificially rotund Joe Wiener has never been better, bringing deadpan comic timing to the role of a hedonistic knight whose sloppy attempt at a dual seduction sets him up for a series of increasingly outrageous humiliations by Margaret Page (Clare Boyd) and Alice Ford (Eli Sibley), who conspire to use Falstaff's libido against him.

In the bargain, they also make a mockery of Alice's husband, Frank (Justin Hooper), who believes his wife plans to accept Falstaff's overtures. In a blisteringly committed soliloquy on the shame of the cuckold, Hooper channels a savage insecurity that continues to haunt even after the deception is revealed and everyone's smiling.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Various locations

Through July 21; classicalactorsensemble.org

Lolly Foy's costumes, along with a bright set designed by Hooper and a few judiciously chosen pop songs, evoke a swinging-'60s milieu that's consistently charming, never more so than in a virtuoso opening pantomime that introduces the characters and their relationships as they roll out of bed and go about their days of discipline or dissolution.

A second plot involves rivals for the hand of the independent-minded Anne Page (Bridget Foy), daughter of Margaret and her husband, George (Robb Krueger, resplendent in leisure shorts and loafers). It's nicely acted but downplayed in this production, except for the over-the-top indignation of Doctor Caius (Daniel Kristian Vopava), a foolish Frenchman whose easily misunderstood accent gets played for all it's worth.

Don't miss these *Merry Wives*, stars of an extraordinarily enjoyable Shakespeare show that hits it, so to speak, out of the park. **A**

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10pm : rhombs,
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sat : july 6
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : lazy scorsese,
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sun : july 7
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KIMBERLY TRASTER

LOST AND FOUND

Ryan Traster discovers a new sound after vocal cord injury on *Choses Obscures*

BY ERICA RIVERA

Ryan Traster had to get out of Minneapolis.

It was 2016 and the singer-songwriter had just released *Broken Pop*. Allergies and over-use had injured his vocal cords, so recording the EP had been an arduous effort. He was also on the tail-end of a failed relationship. To call it, as he does, a “weird time” would be an understatement.

So in October, Traster took a road trip that started in upstate New York, continued

to Virginia, and ended in Nashville. It was there, in the bedroom of a rental apartment, that *Choses Obscures*, his new “cosmic country” album, began to take shape. It’s a fresh sound for Traster but might ring familiar to listeners, as it’s reminiscent of the wide-open ’70s Laurel Canyon sound, with hints of David Crosby and Joni Mitchell. Pairing sunny instrumentation with sullen lyrics, it’s Traster’s best album yet.

Of course, Traster didn’t know that then, because *Choses Obscures* was still just a

concept, not a collection of songs he could actually play on stage. He attempted one performance in Nashville but his voice was uncooperative. “It was kind of a disaster,” he says. “I wasn’t able to demo or even sing any of my songs at that point.” Though he had always been a reluctant showman, now he was frustrated by the inability to put his songs across. “It was pretty grim. I felt pretty lost,” he says. “I really did think I was never going to be able to perform again.”

Traster hadn’t been properly diagnosed. He couldn’t afford to see an ENT, much less have surgery. “I just kind of had to go into the ER and be like, ‘Hey, could you look at this and tell me how fucked-up they are?’” he recalls.

While waiting to see if his vocal cords would heal on their own, Traster got a job “slinging drinks” at the legendary Ryman Auditorium. Considered “the mother church

of country music,” it was the perfect place for a “nerd-level” country music fan to soak up music history, memorabilia, and performances from the likes of Loudon, Rufus, and Martha Wainwright.

The downtime in Nashville re-instilled the value of music in Traster. “You can see the impact that it has on everyone’s lives,” he says. At the same time, he did some soul-searching of his own. Without the constant travel and drinking that had consumed his life as a touring musician, Traster was forced to face himself, a process reflected in the song “Old World, Present Tense.” “Bury me in some tragedy,” he sings. “So I don’t have to be me/I can be a brave protagonist/Fighting to be free.”


“It sounds so cliché, but really the songs did materialize out of this devastating time in my life,” he says. “Not culturally devastating, not like, ‘Oh, man, this is the end of the world.’ But for me, personally, it was.”



THE CEDAR
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Saturday, July 6 The Cedar Presents BILL CALLAHAN with Bill MacKay Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$25 ADV / \$28 DOS	Friday, July 12 Free Minds, Free People and Midwest Mixed Present LET'S GET FREE! ft. Tall Paul, Izell Pyramid, and sunSETS (DJ Set) Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$5 / \$10 / \$20 GA
Tuesday, July 9 The Cedar Presents DAVE ALVIN CELEBRATES THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF KING OF CALIFORNIA with Dead Rock West Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$28 ADV / \$30 DOS	Saturday, July 13 The Cedar and KFAL Present WALTER TROUT with Nick Schnebelen Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$25 ADV • \$28 DOS

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Saturday Matinee, July 6 1:00 pm THE NEVER ENDING STORY (1981)	Sunday, July 14 12pm, 3pm, 6pm, & 9pm STAR WARS: EPISODE IV A NEW HOPE
Thursday, July 11 7:30 pm SAY ANYTHING (1989) PRE-SCREENING MUSIC BY BEV	Thursday, July 18 7:30 pm REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (1956) 35MM PRE-SCREENING MUSIC BY KINDA FONDA WANDA
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MUSIC

Traster returned to Minneapolis in January 2017. His vocal cords healed, but after so much time off, “I just didn’t know how to sing anymore,” he says. A local vocal coach helped him recover his voice through physical and psychological exercises.

Traister had previously recorded his albums live in a studio with a band, but this time, he began tracking himself, lugging his recording equipment to “cool spaces” in St. Paul and Vancouver, Washington. He lifted recording techniques from sources like Tape Op magazine, whose founder, producer Larry Crane, had worked with Elliot Smith, whom Traster identifies as the “spiritual guide” for the recording process. Band members Michael McGarthwaite (guitar), Nick Johnson (bass), Peter Anderson (drums), Alexander Young (drums), and Andy Holmaas (guitar), along with guest vocalists Savannah Smith and Willie Wisely, later filled out the album. Traster also tracked with Kris Johnson at his St. Paul studio. Ed Ackerson mixed and mastered the album.

Traster named the album after a French term that means “dark energy.” But there is a bit of optimism here, especially on “New Again,” inspired by that initial East Coast road trip. “Just 60 more miles and we’ll be new again/Let’s book it to that next party/Just a few more friends to see/A couple more connections and we’ll be rich and happy,” Traster sings.


Hightailing it out of Minneapolis back in 2016 “was like turning my back to whatever kind of rut I was in,” he says. But though hitting the road felt like medicine at first, Traster soon learned the age-old lesson that if you run from your problems, they’ll still catch up with you, albeit in a different form.

“I still have bad habits and a wild itch I can’t scratch,” Traister says, but his performing hiatus did change him for the better. It wasn’t until he lost his voice that he attended a tech bootcamp; he now does UX Design for a large company in Portland and is “much more employed than I ever have been.” When told he could work from home, he jumped at the chance to buy a house in Joshua Tree. “This has been a long-term dream and scheme for me,” he says. “It’s such a peaceful, beautiful place. It’s really mystical.”

Traster shares the home with his wife and their 14-month-old daughter. Domesticity is a big change for Traster, a once notorious wandering hedonist. “I’m 35 now and I don’t see stabilizing as any kind of downside at this point,” he says. “I feel ready to embrace it.”

Settling down has actually been beneficial for his artistic life, too. “Music is a whole different thing when your dinner and family’s livelihood doesn’t depend on

it. It’s such a different experience. You can really enjoy it.” His daughter has recently taken an interest in records, picking them up and dancing to the music. “It was a huge thrill to throw the new album on the turntable and get her feedback. It was cool,” says Traster.

During those dark days in Nashville, Traster swore that if he was ever able to sing again, he wouldn’t take it for granted. And he hasn’t. “Any chance I get to sit down with my guitar now, it’s like, ‘This is amazing,’” he says. “I forgot how important this was to my soul.” 

CRITICS’ PICKS

BILL CALLAHAN

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, SATURDAY 7.6

Bill Callahan is a stark, bitter acoustic troubadour. His long and winding songs charm thanks to his deep, flat, wry spoken-word singing and the strangely courteous tone with which he gets lost in thought and solves obscure puzzles in song. His new *Shepherd in a Sheepskin Vest* is a contented but still quite pensive ode to domesticity and family life. With Bill McKay. 8 p.m. \$25/\$28. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —LUCAS FAGEN

REMO DRIVE

FINE LINE, SATURDAY 7.6

The rare emo band who cite Sting’s *The Dream of the Blue Turtles* as a formative influence, the local boys in Remo Drive rock melodically and melancholically. On their new *Natural, Everyday Degradation*, lead singer Erik Paulson provides an expert tour of emo’s most vulnerable vocal modes, from fragile quaver (“Shakin’”) to babyish whine (“Separate Beds”) to nasal, vibrato-permeated oratory (is this the Sting connection?). With Slow Pulp, Heart to Gold, Slow Bullet, and In Lieu. 5 p.m. \$18/\$22. 318 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —LUCAS FAGEN

DEERHUNTER

FINE LINE, MONDAY 7.8

Among the decade’s freakiest and most protean bands, Deerhunter have lurched from tuneful electrofuzz to grungy amplifier blowout to pastoral jangle-pop while keeping their paranoid wits about them. They’re now a clattery, harpsichord-adorned art-rock ensemble. The key track on their new *Why Hasn’t Everything Already Disappeared?* is “Détournement,” an appreciation of natural earthly beauty that asks us to “imagine a world drawn piece by piece.” With DJ Jake Rudh. 8 p.m. \$25-\$40. 318 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —LUCAS FAGEN

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): When the universe began 13.8 billion years ago, there were only four elements: mostly hydrogen and helium, plus tiny amounts of lithium and beryllium. Now there are 118 elements, including five that are key components of your body: oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus. All of those were created by nuclear reactions blazing on the insides of stars that later died. So it's literally true to say that much of your flesh and blood and bones and nerves originated at the hearts of stars. I invite you to meditate on that amazing fact. It's a favorable time to muse on your origins and your ancestry; to ruminate about all the events that led to you being here today—including more recent decades, as well as the past 13.8 billion years.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Most American women couldn't vote until a hundred years ago. Women in Japan, France, and Italy couldn't vote until the 1940s. Universal suffrage has been a fundamental change in how society is structured. Similarly, same-sex marriage was opposed by vast majorities in most countries until 15 years ago, but has since become widely accepted. African American slavery lasted for hundreds of years before being delegitimized all over the Western world in the 19th century. Brazil, which hosted 40 percent of all kidnapped Africans, didn't free its slaves until 1888. What would be the equivalent of such revolutionary transformations in your own personal life? According to my reading of the astrological omens, you have the power to make that happen during the next 12 months.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini musician Paul Weller is famous in the U.K., though not so much elsewhere. According to the BBC, he is one of Britain's "most revered music writers and performers." To which I say: revered, maybe, but mentally healthy? Not so much. He bragged that he broke up his marriage with his wife Dee C. Lee because "things were going too well, we were too happy, too comfortable, everything seemed too nice." He was afraid that "as a writer and an artist I might lose my edge." Don't you dare allow yourself to get infected with that perverse way of thinking, my dear Gemini. Please capitalize on your current comfort and happiness. Use them to build your strength and resilience for the months and years to come.

♊ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian voice actor Tom Kenny has played the roles of over 1,500 cartoon characters, including SpongeBob SquarePants, Spyro the Dragon, Jake Spidermonkey, Commander Peepers, and Doctor Octopus. I propose that we make him your role model in the coming weeks. It will be a favorable time for you to show your versatility, to demonstrate how multifaceted you can be, to express various sides of your soulful personality.

♊ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo author Donald Miller reminds us that fear can have two very different purposes. On the one hand, it may be "a guide to keep us safe," alerting us to situations that could be dangerous or abusive. On the other hand, fear may work as "a manipulative emotion that can trick us into living a boring life." After studying your astrological indicators for the coming weeks, Leo, I have come to the conclusion that fear may serve both of those functions for you. Your challenge will be to discern between them, to know which situations are genuinely risky and which situations are daunting but promising. Here's a hint that might help: Trust your gut feelings more than your swirling fantasies.

♊ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Why do flocks of geese fly in a V-formation? Because to do so enhances the collective efficiency of their travel. Each bird generates a current that supports the bird behind it. Let's make this phenomenon one of your power metaphors for the coming weeks. What would be the equivalent strategy for you and your tribe or group as you seek to make your collaborative efforts more dynamic and productive? Unforeseen help will augment any actions you take in this regard.

♊ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "A conversation is a dialogue, not a monologue," mused Libra author Truman Capote. "That's why there are so few good conversations: due to scarcity, two intelligent talkers seldom meet." That cynical formulation has more than a few grains of truth in it, I must admit. But I'm pleased to tell you that I suspect your experience in the coming weeks will be an exception to Capote's rule. I think you have the potential to embark on a virtual binge of rich discussion and intriguing interplay with people who stimulate and educate and entertain you. Rise to the challenge!

♊ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In accordance with astrological rhythms, you are authorized to make the following declarations in the next two weeks: 1. "I refuse to participate further in this situation on the grounds that it might impinge on the expansiveness of my imagination." 2. "I abstain from dealing with your skepticism on the grounds that doing so might discourage the flights of my imagination." 3. "I reject these ideas, theories, and beliefs on the grounds that they might pinch, squash, or deflate my imagination." What I'm trying to tell you, Scorpio, is that it's crucial for you to emancipate your imagination and authorize it to play uninhibitedly in the frontiers of possibilities.

♊ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dear Sagittarius: I invite you to make a copy of the testimonial below and give it to anyone who is in a position to support your Noble Experiment. "To Whom It May Concern: I endorse this Soulful Sagittarius for the roles of monster-tamer, fun-locator, boredom-transcender, elation-inciter, and mountaintop visionary. This adroit explorer is endowed with charming zeal, disarming candor, and abundant generosity. If you need help in sparking your enthusiasm or galvanizing your drive to see the big picture, call on the expansive skills of this jaunty puzzle-solver."

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Life will conspire to bring you a surge of love in the coming weeks—if you can handle it. Can you? Will you be able to deal adeptly with rumbling love and icy hot love and mostly sweet but also a bit sour love? Do you possess the resourcefulness and curiosity necessary to have fun with funny spiritual love and running-through-the-labyrinth love and unexpectedly catalytic love? Are you open-minded and open-hearted enough to make the most of brilliant shadowy love and unruly sensitive love and toughly graceful love?

♊ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I don't endlessly champion the "no pain, no gain" theory of personal growth. My philosophy holds that we are at least as likely to learn valuable lessons from pleasurable and joyful experiences as we are from difficult and taxing struggles. Having said that, I also think it's true that our suffering may lead us to treasure if we know how to work with it. According to my assessment, the coming weeks will bring one such opening for you. To help you cultivate the proper spirit, keep in mind the teaching of Aquarian theologian and author Henri Nouwen. He said that life's gifts may be "hidden in the places that hurt most."

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The Japanese word "wabi-sabi" refers to an interesting or evocative imperfection in a work of art that makes it more beautiful than if it were merely perfect. "Duende" is a Spanish word referring to a work of art that gives its viewers the chills because it's so emotionally rich and unpredictably soulful. In the coming weeks, I think that you yourself will be a work of art with an abundance of these qualities. Your wabi-sabi will give you the power to free yourself from the oppressive pressures of seeking too much precision and purity. Your duende can give you the courage you need to go further than you've ever dared in your quest for the love you really want.



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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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65						66						67			

BUT FIRST, COFFEE

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Madonna nickname
- 6 Name on a credit card
- 10 Pixar movie inspired by the Day of the Dead
- 14 Stevia rival
- 15 Busy travel nights
- 16 Shortly
- 17 Thing blown after a heavy rainstorm?
- 20 Canadian Football League division
- 21 Canadian Football League scores: Abbr.
- 22 Heads into the pool?
- 23 ___ homo
- 25 Peter Parker's girlfriend
- 27 Kangaroo's hereditary piece?
- 33 Crossword birds
- 34 Mario's wheels
- 35 That sorta thing
- 37 Iraq's ___ City
- 38 Barbecue meat
- 40 Roman censor
- 41 Bioguard Lo 'N ___ (pool pH reducer brand)
- 42 Like one end of the pool
- 43 The Good, the Bad & the Queen singer Albarn
- 44 Activity similar to bar hopping?
- 48 "___ we forget"
- 49 Car maker Ferrari
- 50 With 6-Down, "Even Flow" singer
- 53 It started after the July Crisis: Abbr.
- 54 Carefree life

- 58 Sleazeball magician?
- 62 Sticking point?
- 63 British noble
- 64 Hospital area
- 65 Thicket trees
- 66 It's worth a nickel
- 67 Unionize?

Down

- 1 Cory Booker's side eye, e.g.
- 2 Blue hue
- 3 Outfit
- 4 Ana of "Wine Country"
- 5 Multi-core?
- 6 See 50-Across
- 7 "All in the Timing" playwright David
- 8 Darn it all
- 9 Cricket bat wood
- 10 House of cards?
- 11 Broadcasting
- 12 Haan of shoemaking
- 13 Tip jar notes
- 18 Cortizone target
- 19 Clarifying phrase
- 24 Shot amts.
- 25 Athlete who plays for "Big Blue"
- 26 Slacker's bugaboo
- 27 Singer/songwriter Glynne
- 28 Sonicare rival
- 29 Wicket W. Warrick's home moon
- 30 Giraffe cousin
- 31 City where the first 2020 Democrat debates were held

- 32 "Rocketman" subject, familiarly
- 36 Big ape
- 38 Admit, with "up"
- 39 Beat and humiliated, on-line
- 40 Afro-Brazilian martial art
- 42 Meganerd
- 43 Border dispute area: Abbr.
- 45 Our moral superiors
- 46 Hairstyle for Gabe Kaplan
- 47 History chapter
- 50 Topiary's side
- 51 Kind of pickle
- 52 Beat it
- 53 Big troubles
- 55 Maker of the Aspire laptops
- 56 Toffee candy bar
- 57 Look at
- 59 "Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery," e.g.
- 60 "How about that!"
- 61 45, for a 7"

Last Week's Answer

A	R	O	A	R	A	S	A	P	M	B	A	S			
B	E	R	L	E	M	O	T	O	A	R	N	E			
S	L	A	T	E	R	O	O	F	S	L	U	T			
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M	E	L	C	Z	I	A	T	I	T	L	E				
				D	U	E	T	I	N	A	T	E	X		
				B	U	R	N	S	C	A	L	O	R	I	E
M	L	S	I	C	O	N	S	Y	S						
R	O	B	O	T	H	I	P	M	I	C	A				
S	O	P	R	A	N	O	C	L	E	F	N	A	P		
		P	O	I	S	E	A	I	R	F	A	R	E		
B	E	R	G	S	K	I	N	N	E	R	B	O	X		
A	R	T	I	T	O	O	K	S	E	A	L	E			
A	S	S	N	S	I	N	S	H	E	R	E	S			

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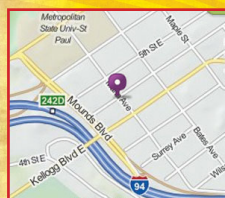
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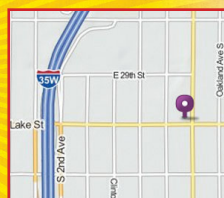
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SAVAGE LOVE

Prejudicial Statements

Are her preferences racist?

I'm a man from a very liberal background. Recently, a girl I started dating—a girl from a similar background—mentioned that she has “a thing for black guys.” She also met my childhood best friend, a man of Korean descent, and commented to me that she found him handsome despite not typically being attracted to Asian guys. The position that I’ve always held is that we’re attracted to individuals, not types, and it’s wrong to have expectations of people based on race—especially when it comes to sexualizing/fetishizing people. I think we should date and have sex with whomever we want and not carry

prejudiced expectations into our relationships. I am worried she sees black men as stereotypes of athleticism, confidence, and the other complicated constructions we’ve made about the black body, like black men having bigger dicks. I also worry that she might see me as less masculine and less well-endowed because of my race. I eventually asked her about these issues, and we had a tense conversation. I tried to ask if she had ever checked herself for possible prejudice where her sexual desires are concerned, and she shut the conversation down by accusing me of trying to control her. I reassured her that I wasn’t trying to control her, but it is possible I was projecting the insecurity her comments stirred into the conversation. I’m trying to balance two components: my own insecurity and the possibility that she’s holding a legitimately prejudiced opinion that makes me uncomfortable. Any advice?

SEEKING TO INTERROGATE NEWISH
GIRLFRIEND’S STATEMENTS

It’s a big leap from “I have a thing for black guys” to “white guys aren’t masculine or well-endowed,” STINGS, and you made that leap on your own. So in addition to confronting your new girlfriend about her attitudes and assumptions... you might want to give some thought to your own?

That said, the things your girlfriend has said about black and Asian men are legit problematic. When someone describes their attraction to a certain group, racial or otherwise, as “a thing,” that usually

means they see members of that group as things—and in a society that dehumanizes black people, white people can easily come to see black people as objects.

As for her comment about your Korean friend: Prevailing beauty standards shape our ideas about attractiveness, and those standards are shaped by our rabidly racist culture. A person socialized to only recognize the beauty of men or women of European descent may not even consider—they may not even be able to perceive—the attractiveness of people who aren’t white. And then when someone of a different race does manage to make a blip on their sex radar, it comes as a surprise.

But instead of reconsidering their ideas about attractiveness, a dumb fucking white person—even one from a liberal background—is likelier to say something stupid like “I don’t usually find Asian guys hot, but your Korean friend is attractive,” rather than rethinking their assumptions about their desires. Declaring one Asian guy an exception allows someone like your girlfriend to have her racist cake (“I don’t find Asian guys hot”) and eat it too (“But this Asian guy is hot”).

It’s a shame your girlfriend reacted defensively when you tried to bring all this up, STINGS, but sometimes people react defensively in the moment and then keep thinking about it. My advice: Keep bringing it up—but it would help if you owned your own shit during these conversations (and you have some shit of your own) rather than just self-righteously going after your girlfriend for her shit. I have to say, though, I disagree with you on one thing: People do have types, and there’s nothing wrong with having types. It’s a good idea to ask ourselves whether our “types” are actually ours and not just assigned to us by conventional standards of beauty (white, slim, young) or a thoughtless/fetishizing reaction to those standards (a desire to transgress with nonwhite, larger, or older folks).



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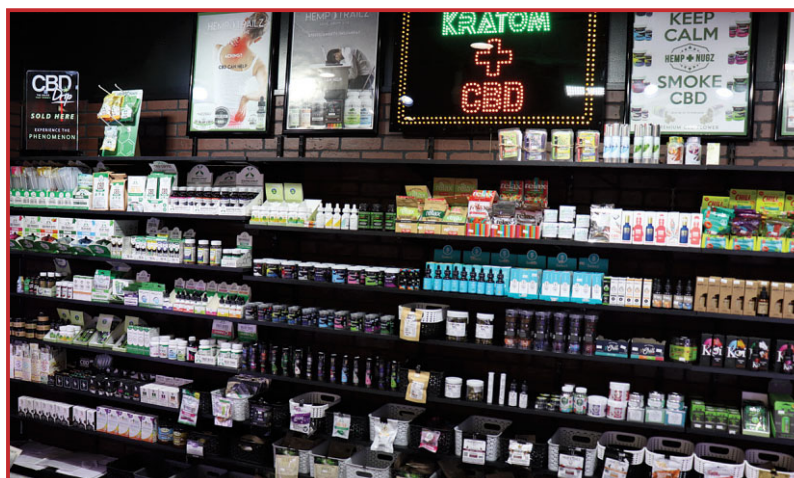
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One-Time Projects
 Wingspan Life Resources operates 28 residential homes serving people with developmental disabilities in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties. Volunteers needed to assist with one-time projects on-site, such as spring landscaping, painting, etc. Volunteer for a couple of hours. Flexible scheduling.
 http://wingspanlife.org/

Horses and People with Special Needs
 We Can Ride in Minnetonka seeks volunteers for their therapeutic riding and hippotherapy programs. They also need volunteers to help feed their herd, barn maintenance, and special events.
 http://wecanride.org/

Team Consultant
 The Walk-In Counseling Center provides free, anonymous, no-appointment-needed mental health counseling. A Team Consultant will have clinical licensure and experience and will work with a team to review cases, support individual counselors and more. Supervisory experience is helpful. Afternoon or evening shift, once a week or every other week.
 https://walkin.org/

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 https://www.441nice.com/

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